



# Jackson-Milton Metro Water District



## Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2021 Based on Data from 2020

The Jackson-Milton Metro Water District has prepared the following report to provide information to you, the consumer, on the quality of our drinking water. Included within this report is a source water description, general health information, water quality test results, and information on how to participate in decisions concerning your drinking water and water system contacts.

The Jackson-Milton Metro Water District obtains its drinking water from the Meander Reservoir. The Meander Reservoir is operated by the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District and is considered a surface water source which required treatment prior to use as drinking water. The Jackson-Milton Water District purchases a finished product from The City of Youngstown and operates a water distribution system only. In 2020, we had an unconditioned license to operate our water system.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

The Mahoning Valley District public water system uses surface water drawn from the Meander Creek Reservoir. For the purposes of source water assessments, in Ohio all surface waters are considered to be susceptible to contamination. By their nature, surface waters are readily accessible and can be contaminated by chemicals and pathogens which may rapidly arrive at the public drinking water intake with little warning or time to prepare.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's drinking water source protection area is susceptible to runoff from row crop agriculture and animal feedlot operations, oil and gas wells, failing home and commercial septic systems, road/rail crossings, and new housing and commercial development that could increase runoff from roads and parking lots.

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District treats the water to meet drinking water quality standards, but no single treatment technique can address all potential contaminants. The potential for water quality impacts can further be decreased by implementing measures to protect Meander Creek Reservoir and its watershed.

More detailed information is provided in the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District's Drinking Water Source Assessment report, which can be obtained by calling John Nemet at (330)652-3614. The MVSD Meander Creek Reservoir Drinking Water Source Protection Plan is available at the meanderwater.org web site by clicking the link for Administration Public Records.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available at the MVSD office. This plan is an assessment of the delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could

migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential source of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources.

According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of medium. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact MVSD during regular office hours.

### How is Your Drinking Water Treated?

The Mahoning Valley Sanitary District treats approximately 21 million gallons per day of raw water from Meander Creek Reservoir and pumps it to Youngstown, Niles and McDonald. These communities distribute the water to residents and surrounding areas. Treatment includes chemical addition for softening, disinfection, fluoridation, taste and odor control, mixing, settling, filtration and pumping. The City of Youngstown sells bulk water to the Jackson-Milton Water District water system.

### What are sources of contamination to drinking water?

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water; include river, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;

**Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

**Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems;

**Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Federal Environmental

Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Lead Educational Information.** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Jackson-Milton Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. If you wish to participate in the Jackson-Milton Metro Water District Lead Sampling Program, contact Joseph DeNiro, Field Supervisor, at (330)793-5514 ext. 8240.

**Who needs to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**About your drinking water.** The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The Jackson-Milton Metro Water District conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganic; synthetic organic; and volatile organic during 2020. Samples were collected for a total of seven different contaminants most of which were not detected in the Jackson-Milton Metro Water District water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

**Revised Total Coliform Rule Information.** All water systems were required to begin compliance with a new rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule, on April 1, 2016. The new rule maintains the purpose to protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system and monitoring for the presence of total coliform bacteria, which includes E. coli bacteria. The U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection under the new rule, as it requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems. As a result, under the new rule there is no longer a maximum contaminant level violation for multiple total coliform detections. Instead, the new rule requires water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences to conduct an assessment to determine if any significant deficiencies exist. If found, these must be corrected by the PWS.

**Backflow Education.** Customers are sent an annual mailing with water backflow education through our Pipelines newsletter and are encouraged to review the following link on the Department website for frequent updates.  
<https://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov/523/Forms-Publications>

**Table of Detected Contaminants for 2020**

Contamination (Unit)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found	Detection Range	Violation	Sample Year	Typical Source of Contaminants
<b>Bacteriological</b>							
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	TT	0.04	0.03-0.07	NO	2020	Soil Runoff
Turbidity (% sampling meeting standard)	N/A	TT 95%	100%	100%	NO	2020	Soil Runoff
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Nitrate (mg/l)	10.0	10.0	0.35	0.10-0.35	NO	2020	Runoff from fertilizer & leachate from septic tanks
Fluoride (mg/l)	4	4	1.10	0.81-1.10	NO	2020	Additive for strong teeth
Barium (mg/l)	2	2	0	0-.010	.010	2020	Discharge from drilling & metal refineries erosion of natural deposits
**Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.014	N/A	NO	2020	Household contaminants from plumbing & corrosion & leaching from wood preservatives.
***Lead (ppb)	0	15	0	N/A	NO	2020	Household plumbing corrosion.
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
TTHM's (ug/l) Total Trihalomethanes	0	80	42.43 avg.	33.6-58.6	NO	2020	Water Purification By-Product
HAA5's (ug/q) Total Haloacetic Acids	0	60	20.01 avg.	16.1-25.2	NO	2020	Water Purification By-Product

\*Zero of 20 samples were found to have Copper levels in excess of the Action Level of 1.3 ppb

\*\*\*Zero of 20 samples were found to have Lead levels in excess of the Action Level of 15 ppb.

### **Definitions of some terms contained within this report**

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant level (MCL):** the highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Parts per Million (ppm) or Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per million corresponds to one second in a little over 11.5 days.

**Parts per Billion (ppb) or Micrograms per Liter (ug/L)** are units of measure for concentration of a contaminant. A part per billion corresponds to one second in 31.7 years.

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water systems must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**The “<”symbol:** A symbol which means less than. A result of <5 means that the lowest level that could be detected was 5 and the contaminant in that sample was not detected.

**Turbidity:** Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water and is an indication of the effectiveness of our filtration system. The turbidity limit set by the EPA is 0.3 NTU in 95% of the samples analyzed each month and shall not exceed 1 NTU at any time. As reported above, the Jackson-Milton Water District’s highest recorded turbidity result for 2018 was 0.17 NTU and the lowest monthly percentage of samples meeting the turbidity limits was 95%.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unity (NTU):** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable by the average person. **N/A** – Not applicable, does not apply. **BDL** – Below Detection Limits

### **How do I participate in decisions concerning my drinking water?**

Public participation and comments regarding water are encouraged at regular meetings of the County Commissioners which usually meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners’ Hearing Room at the Mahoning County Courthouse, 120 Market St., Youngstown, OH 44503.

For more information on your drinking water contact  
Joseph DeNiro, Field Supervisor, at (330)793-5514 ext. 8240

**Mahoning County Sanitary Engineering Dept. 761 Industrial Road Youngstown, Oh 44509 (330) 793-5514**